

Postal Regulatory Commission
Office of the Chief Admin. Officer

BEFORE THE
POSTAL RATE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, DC 20268

POSTAL REGULATORY
COMMISSION
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

In the Matter of:

Lodi, Texas 75564
Post Office State ZIP Code

: Docket No: A2012-26
original docket number:
1370779-75564

Robert Calhoun, Petitioner(s)

PARTICIPANT STATEMENT

1. Petitioner(s) are appealing the Postal Service's Final Determination concerning the Lodi, Texas post office. The Final Determination was posted Sep 26, 2011.
(date)

2. In accordance with applicable law, 39 U.S.C. § 404(d)(5), the Petitioner(s) request the Postal Regulatory Commission to review the Postal Service's determination on the basis of the record before the Postal Service in the making of the determination.

3. Petitioners: Please set out below the reasons why you believe the Postal Service's Final Determination should be reversed and returned to the Postal Service for further consideration. (See pages of the Instructions for an outline of the kinds of reasons the law requires us to consider.) Please be as specific as possible. Please continue on additional paper if you need more space and attach the additional page(s) to this form.

The postal service decided arbitrarily to close Lodi without considering the total impact on the community which is a part of two counties.

The postal service intends to cover Lodi's current Cass County customers by carrier service from the Bivins Post Office. Aside from the apparently not fully considered increase of expenses for Bivins, the service has not considered the fact that Lodi customers have no current association with the Bivins area. The confusion of a Bivins address for us will only compromise emergency services, business and even social interfacing. Similar issues will be encountered by Lodi's Marion County customers acquiring a Jefferson address.

The Postal Service suggested that Lodi Customers use the Kildare Texas Post Office for retail services and for a higher level of security than a rural route mail box would provide. All the while, they knew that Kildare is also up for consideration to close. This would seem to be willful and capricious or, at the very least, that the service was unaware of its own plans.

The Postal Service has, in the past, denied rural route service to some of the Lodi customers due to what they deemed as inaccessible roads. By the service's own criteria, these roads are still inaccessible. If it is trouble enough for these customers, many of whom are limited in their mobility, to access the community Post Office, one can only imagine the increased burden of having to travel to Bivins or Jefferson for their mail.

Lodi is currently at the nadir of an economic curve which will be made more difficult to recover from with the closure of its Post Office. People wishing to move to this community or start a business here will find it ~~more~~ awkward & cumbersome to establish an address in relation to their actual physical location.

The postal service claims that Lodi must be closed because it has no Post Master. However, Lodi has no Post Master only because the Postal Service will not make the position available to be filled. In this economic climate, many highly qualified candidates would be happy to fill that position including, most likely, the current postal employee staffing Lodi who, unless reassigned, will be out of a job if Lodi closes.

The Postal Service claims Lodi must close because it is not making a profit. but it refused to allow Lodi to have more flexible hours to accomodate its working customers thereby handcuffing its ability to generate more revenue.

All due consideration has not been given to the total economic "savings" or lack thereof that might be incurred by closing Lodi. When the cost of additional personnel, vehicles & maintenance is factored in with the enormity of the proposed coverage area, the economic benefits to the postal service of closing Lodi will be ~~non-existent~~ negligible if not nonexistent.

The Postal Service has also not considered how vital this facility is to the bona fides and legitimacy of Lodi as a viable community. It is an anchor and a point of cohesiveness for this community. Closure would be devastating and the assets it provides Lodi will not be replaced by these proposed alternatives.

It is for these reasons, which represent the tip of the ice berg, that I implore you to remand the entire matter to the Postal Service for further consideration.

1. The Postal Service apparently did not consider the negative impact of this facility's closure on the psyche and legitimacy of this community.
2. It did not consider the undue hardships created for customers with limited mobility who live in areas considered inaccessible by the service itself to reach post offices even farther away than Lodi.
3. It did not consider the undue difficulty of new individuals or businesses attempting to establish an address miles away from their potential physical location.
4. It did not consider the negligibility of the economic savings to the Postal Service of closing this facility. It also did not consider the added expense incurred by Lodi's customers of re-establishing an address, driving to another town to do postal business, the decrease of security and the resulting cost of identity theft and losing financial instruments delivered to unsecured rural route locations for customers opting for rural route service if available.
5. and the effect on personnel employed at this location.

Thank You,

Robert Calhoun, P.O. Box 1, Lodi, Texas 75564.